

Getting the Range

Liberal onslaught on the Provincial Government Budget proposals started yesterday, led off by the North Bruce member. Just at the end of the day's debate a broad hint that on Thursday next he will "speak out in meeting" was given by the Conservative member from Carleton.

Suggestions, statements and criticisms advanced yesterday by the various speakers are summarized as follows:

F. W. ELLIOTT (Liberal, Bruce North)—Government juggles financial figures.

Deficit is \$14,000,000 and would be \$24,000,000 if indirect relief had been classed as ordinary expenditure.

Moves amendment condemning Government for not balancing Budget.

Asserts Hydro reserves are only \$40,000,000, instead of \$62,500,000 as claimed.

Declares bond interest rates too high.

S. C. TWEED (Liberal, Waterloo North) proposed Commission form of government for next ten years.

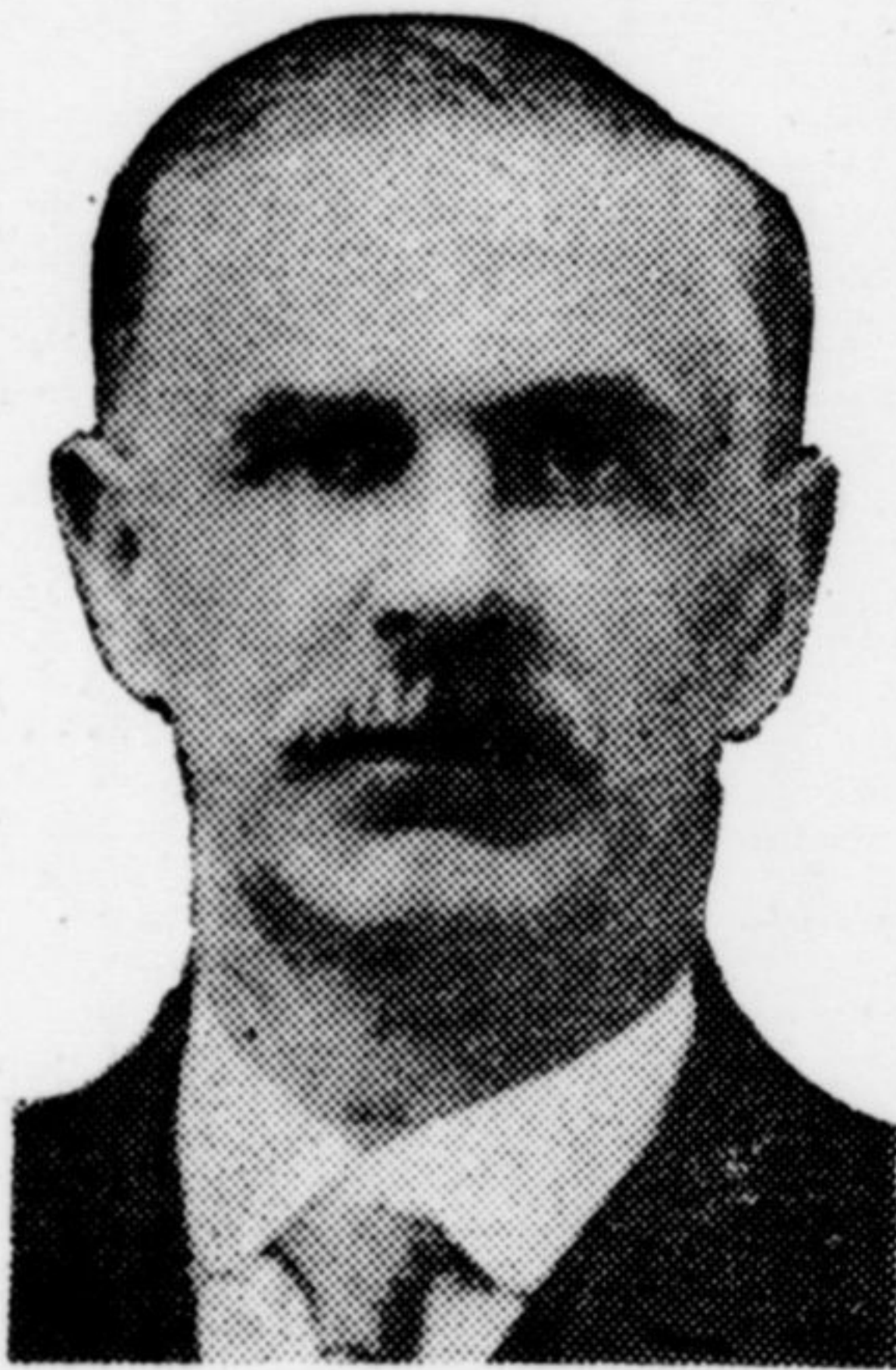
Charity tax on meals costing more than a certain amount.

Extra tax on hard liquor.

Succession-duty tax graded according to age of beneficiary.

Refuse to pay premium on exchange to security holders living in Canada.

DR. H. J. DAVIS (Conservative, Elgin West)—Educational costs too high.



F. W. ELLIOTT.

Liberal member for Bruce North, who analyzed the Henry Budget proposals yesterday in a manner painful to the Government.

Commission to supervise dairy industry.

A. H. ACRES (Conservative, Carleton) — Still a Conservative, but indicates he might have some "pertinent remarks to make" when he resumes debate tomorrow.

PREMIER SUGGESTS CUTTING ESTIMATES OF LONDON SCHOOLS

Room for Reduction, He Thinks, Promising Council Help

ANOMALY UNDER LAW

Premier Henry indicated to the London City Council, which met him at Queen's Park yesterday, that there might be room for a cut in the London school estimates below the level set by the Trustees when authority was sought to reduce the figure.

"I will see what I can do for you, and possibly an officer of the department will go to London and find out the board's attitude, and then we will see if we cannot get a little closer together. There is room for a reduction without anybody suffering," said the Premier at the close of the interview with the Council.

Want \$150,000 Cut at Least.

Mayor Kilbourne and eleven London Aldermen were on hand. The School Board cut some \$80,000 off the estimates as originally submitted to Council, but the Aldermen want a cut made of at least \$150,000.

The Mayor said that there were accumulated tax arrears of more than \$800,000 in London, while in the last year properties on which there were nearly \$200,000 arrears have been taken over by the city.

An anomaly under the law had been disclosed by the present financial crisis in the municipalities, the Premier remarked, inasmuch as the statutes provided that Municipal Councils must collect School Board taxes, but no provision is made for School Boards to reduce their ex-

penditures because of the non-collection of taxes.

Every Pressure Exerted.

The Premier also suggested that London might use a little more pressure to collect taxes. In depression times it is usual for some people to take advantage of general conditions to postpone tax payments, he felt. Mayor Kilbourne told him that the Council had exerted every pressure, short of turning people into the street.

"We cannot provide what the School Board asks. It is absolutely impossible to collect taxes at the present time," said the Mayor.

Alderman Thomas Copp expressed the fear that a school teacher might be sent to look over the education system in London. The Premier told the Alderman, however, that the Government employed no teachers. The employees of the Department of Education were just as much a part of the Civil Service as those in any other department and were, therefore, responsible to the Government, and not to the teachers, Mr. Henry stated.

Fight of Long Standing.

London, Ont., March 28.—(Staff Correspondence.)—Presenting a solid front against the Board of Education, and travelling in their own cars at their own expense, all members of the City Council responded to the call issued by Mayor F. B. Kilbourne and hastened away to the Queen City for a conference with Premier Henry. Members of the Board of Education remained at home somewhat abashed by the evident determination of the Council to place full responsibility on the Trustees for their refusal to take any effective part in holding down this year's tax rate.

A year ago the same battle was waged between the city and Council with Government officials in the Department of Education from time to time citing the law to show that school trustees in every municipality have indisputable right to spend what they like, regardless of aldermanic objections. This year the Council decided to go to the Premier for relief and it is understood that encouragement has been given by members of Councils in municipalities in all parts of the Province. The overnight developments began when the Council found it impossible to budge the Trustees from their refusal to cut more than \$58,000 from a budget exceeding \$1,100,000.

J. P. Moore, K.C., and Dr. J. C. Wilson, members for London, were asked to arrange the emergency meeting with Premier Henry, and when word came that the session was due for late this afternoon the motor cavalcade of irate Aldermen started at once for Toronto.